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Title: Need to expedite the functioning of M.S. Swaminathan Committee with a view to provide relief to the farmers affected due to debt trap in Kerala.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): The State Government of Kerala had requested the Government of India to include five districts of Kerala i.e. Wyanad, Palakkad, Kasargode, Alappuzha and Idukki, where large number of farmers had committed suicide following debt trap, in the Vidharbha model package. Three districts had been included but the districts of Alappuzha and Idukki had been left out. Hon. Agriculture Minister had visited Kerala for an on-the-spot study of the situation and announced that a Committee, headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan would be constituted for the indepth study of the situation of farmers' crisis and to formulate the relief measures for the farmers. Three-four months had lapsed and the Committee has not started functioning yet. So, I would urge upon the hon. Agriculture Minister to expedite the functioning of the Committee so that relief would be given to the farmers as early as possible.